



# Community Clipnotes

A Quarterly Publication of The Center For Community Solutions Division

Volume II, Issue I

Spring



2004

## Spring is a time to :

- Gather, prepare, and plant new ideas for your neighborhood.

## During this season, strive to:

- Motivate yourself and others to action.
- Reach out to those who can offer positive ideas and encouragement.
- Start new projects and plan for summer activities.
- Get to know new neighbors in your area.

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## Meet the Neighborhood Advisory Council

The Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council is an outgrowth of the Property Maintenance Advisory Committee (PMAC), which previously advised the Director of Neighborhood & Community Services on property maintenance issues. The new KCNAC is populated by representatives from a wide variety of neighborhoods within the City.

When the 15-member Council's roster is complete, it should have two members from each of six "Regions" in the City, as well as three At-Large members. The regions correspond roughly to the City's Northwest, Northeast, Central West, Central East, Southwest, and Southeast areas. More information on the new KCNAC and a map can be found at: <http://www.kcmo.org/neigh.nsf/web/nac>.

Currently the KCNAC is looking at the City's 2004-2005 Budget Proposal to ensure that neighborhood concerns and

basic services are taken care of. In addition, they have two subcommittees: the Property Maintenance Advisory Committee, as described above, and the Waste Management Subcommittee, currently tasked with helping to ensure that RecycleFIRST is implemented well.

KCNAC Officers are as follows:

- ♦ **President:** Lynda Callon
- ♦ **Vice-President:** Forestine Beasley
- ♦ **Secretary:** Steve Eklund
- ♦ **PMAC Subcommittee Chair:** Rodney Sampson II
- ♦ **Waste Management Subcommittee Chair:** Jay Stock.
- ♦ **Other members:** Dennis Carroll, Cynthia Canady, Greg Hugeback, Bruce Pennington.

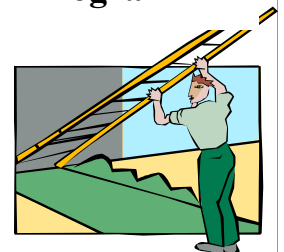
The KCNAC can be reached by leaving a message with CCS at 784-4515.

## City Offers "Fee For Service" Weatherization Program

The Weatherization Program, part of Housing & Community Development, is undergoing two significant changes. Firstly, they are introducing a new "Fee for Service" program, which allows residents who exceed the income guidelines for the program to receive weatherization services from the City for a fee. Secondly, they are temporarily freezing new "free" applications in order to work on the backlog of qualified applicants already on file. The program will resume accepting free applications from Oct. 1st, 2004 until Feb. 1st, 2005.

"It is important, especially during the cold winter months, for people to know what they can do to improve energy efficiency in their homes," said Bob Jackson, Weatherization Program manager.

Those with questions or wishing to apply for services should call the Weatherization Program at 513-3000.



WORKING FOR YOU

SERVICES

## Special Event Days Help Neighborhoods Come Together

Sometimes having a holiday is all the “excuse” needed for your neighborhood to have a party, a picnic, or a get-together. With that in mind, we’d like to offer a few suggestions you can use in your group:



**National Youth Service Day (4/16-4/18/04).** Get your youth involved! This is the largest service event in the world, and it is specifically designed to recruit young people into caring for their communities. If young people stay involved in the neighborhood, they are less likely to get in trouble, as well as providing valuable help to keep your neighborhood strong.

<http://www.ysa.org/nysd/>

**National Crime Victim’s Rights Week (4/18-4/24/04).** The theme for 2004 is “Victim’s Rights: America’s Values,” and what better way to help victims than to stand up for them? Get your group to do some volunteer work, help someone repair damage to their home or neighborhood business from a criminal act, or just lend an ear to former victims.

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw/welcome.html>

**Earth Day (4/22/04).** Earth Day started in 1970 as a way to address growing concern for the environment. Why not take some time this week for a neighborhood cleanup, or participate in one of the many events going on in the Kansas City area, such as the Blue River Cleanup?

<http://earthday.envirolink.org/>

**National Police Week (5/9-5/15/04).** May 15th is National Peace Officers’ Memorial Day, in memory of officers wounded or killed in the line of duty. Invite your local sector officers to your meeting this week to tell them you appreciate them, make them a meal, or send a card from your group.

<http://www.nationalcops.org/npw.htm>

**National Friendship Day (8/1/04).** The first Sunday in August is Friendship Day—why not get out and visit with old friends, and make new ones, on your block? This is an ideal time for a picnic, game of football, or blockwide movie night.

**National Night Out Against Crime (8/3/04).** Take back your neighborhood! NNO is an annual event designed for every neighborhood in America to show criminals that they will not be frightened behind locked doors and barred windows. Turn on the lights, turn up the music, and take back your street!

<http://www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/>

**Neighbor’s Day (9/25/04).** The last Saturday in September is Neighbor’s Day; what better reason to get out and enjoy the end of fall with those who you live and play with?

<http://www.neighborsday.org/>

**National Family Week (11/21-11/27/04).** Cities are made up of neighborhoods, and neighborhoods are made up of families. Celebrate the diverse families of your group for what they bring to the neighborhood!

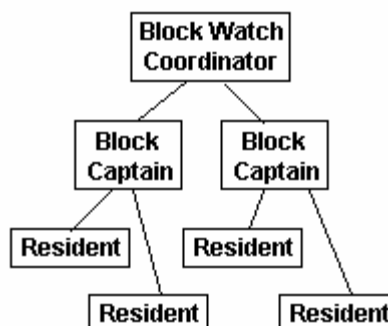
<http://www.nationalfamilyweek.org/>

## Helping Your Neighborhood Overcome Barriers: Phone Trees

During the cold winter months, it’s hard sometimes to find ways to keep the group active. Attendance at meetings tends to plummet with the temperature, and some groups even cancel winter meetings to avoid conflicting with the holidays. But what can you do to keep from losing members over the quiet period and not have them disappear into the mists of spring?

One idea is to use the slow season to update and expand your phone tree. A phone tree is simply a way to communicate quickly with an organization’s membership or leadership in an efficient manner. Email can be used the same way, but only if everyone has it!

Phone trees are shaped somewhat like real trees; they have a few contacts at one end (usually the President, or Block Watch Coordinator) and then branch out to primary contacts, then to individual contacts within the group.



The idea is to spread out the burden so that each person only has to call 5-10 people, instead of 50-100. Likewise, a phone tree can be used to call “up” the tree, passing information on to Block Captains and intermediary persons, who can then pass it on to the primary contact person, who then has the responsibility of contacting the authorities with complete information, instead of a piece at a time.

To get more ideas for winter activities or for a sample phone tree worksheet, please call the Center for Community Solutions at 784-4515, or e-mail us at [solutions\\_ncsd@kcmo.org](mailto:solutions_ncsd@kcmo.org).

## New Manager Selected for Neighborhood Preservation

It's official! Pearline McFall has been promoted to Manager of the Neighborhood Preservation Division of Neighborhood & Community Services Department. As many of you know, she has served in this position as Acting Manager since March 2003, when her predecessor, Iris Archer, retired.

Ms. McFall's promotion to Division Manager follows a selection process by a four-member panel, with several neighborhood leaders invited to take part in the process. In addition to her work with the City, Ms. McFall is currently serving as 1st Vice President of the Missouri Association of Code Enforcement.

Les Washington, Director of NCSD, says he is confident that Ms. McFall will "continue to dedicate her efforts to improving Kansas City neighborhoods."

Neighborhood Preservation handles the enforcement of the City's Property Maintenance Code and the Nuisance Code, with the goal of improving and stabilizing neighborhoods, protecting property values, and promoting a healthy, safe environment in which to live.

Questions or congratulations may be directed to Neighborhood Preservation at 513-9010.

## City Council: Committee Meetings and Sessions

### Tuesdays

1:30 pm Budget and Audit Committee. 10th Floor

### Wednesdays

9:00 am Operations Committee. 26th Floor

9:00 am Finance Committee. 10th Floor  
(alternate weeks)

10:00 am Legislative, Rules, & Ethics Committee. 10th Floor

11:00 am Neighborhood Development & Housing Committee. 26th Floor

11:30 am Aviation Committee. 10th Floor

12:30 pm Finance Committee. 26th Floor  
(alternate weeks)

2:00 pm Planning, Zoning, & Economic Development Committee. 26th Floor

### Thursdays

1:45 pm Business Session. 10th Floor

3:00 pm Council Session. 26th Floor

Agendas and minutes are available at:  
<http://www.kcmo.org/kcmo.nsf/web/calendar>

E-mail testimony can be sent to any of the Standing Committees, in lieu of going to City Hall!  
<http://www.kcmo.org/clerk.nsf/web/Etestimony>

## Weed-Cutting Program Moves to Parks & Recreation

City Manager Wayne Cauthen announced December 9 that oversight of the Weed Abatement Program was transferred to the Parks and Recreation Department from the Department of Environmental Management.

"We hope to achieve cost savings and contract efficiencies through the centralization of the program," Cauthen said. "Parks and Recreation currently manages the majority of our mowing program, has vast experience in land maintenance, and is able to absorb the weed mowing element into their overall maintenance program at minimal cost and program disruption," Cauthen added. "In addition, the centralization of the program in Parks and Recreation will provide a single point of contact for citizens to get information about the weed program."

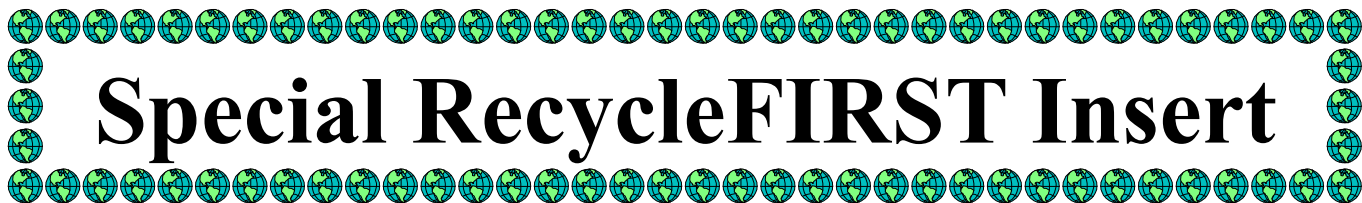
The phone number for the program has changed as well; Weed Abatement can now be reached at 513-3472.

## Dangerous Dog Problems Addressed in New Ordinance

Dangerous dogs are an increasingly serious threat to the safety and welfare of people in many cities, Kansas City included. The City Council has responded to this threat by enacting a dangerous dog ordinance that outlines specific dog behaviors (not breeds) that are prohibited and then makes the owners of these dogs accountable. It also gives animal control officers the authority to take significant action if the owner of a dangerous dog does not follow the requirements.

Robyn Kendrick, Manager of Animal Control, researched dangerous dog ordinances across the country to find a fair, appropriate, and enforceable law. "Without an effective law, we can't do much." Councilwoman Becky Nace sponsored the ordinance, which went into effect on December 28, 2003.

For information, contact Animal Control at 513-9800.



# Special RecycleFIRST Insert

## Phase 1 of RecycleFIRST started March 1st!

RecycleFIRST is a new residential curbside recycling and updated trash-collection program for Kansas City, Missouri. The program is designed to encourage people to recycle to create a cleaner, healthier environment for Kansas City. Implementation will occur in stages, starting March 1, 2004 with 75 neighborhoods, and the entire City recycling by December 1, 2004.

Help your neighborhood become educated on RecycleFIRST! City staff and community volunteers will be making presentations to neighborhood groups and associations. Meetings in Phase 1 neighborhoods will be given top priority in order for RecycleFIRST presentations to be held before the program begins in those neighborhoods. Phase 2, 3 and 4 neighborhood leaders are asked to schedule presentations closer to their neighborhood start dates. Call Bridging The Gap, the city's RecycleFIRST, community outreach partner, at (816) 561-1061 ext. 121 to speak with Judy Widener and schedule a neighborhood presentation.

Recycling volunteers wanted! If you would like to volunteer your time to educate other neighborhoods on RecycleFIRST, check out these opportunities...

### RecycleFIRST Speakers:

RecycleFIRST Speakers do presentations for neighborhood associations, homes associations, and community organizations about how RecycleFIRST works. Contact: Laura O'Brien, 561-1061, ext. 109 or email [lobrien@bridgingthegap.org](mailto:lobrien@bridgingthegap.org).

### RecycleFIRST Recycling Ambassadors:

Recycling Ambassadors serve as a resource/contact person for a block or several blocks and educate residents about how RecycleFIRST works. Ambassadors do not have to be Kansas City, MO residents. Ambassadors place yard signs about RecycleFIRST, distribute additional RecycleFIRST literature upon request, and answer questions. Contact: Judy Widener at 561-1061, ext. 121 or [judy@bridgingthegap.org](mailto:judy@bridgingthegap.org), or Sharon Cheers at 561-1061, ext. 124 or [sharon@bridgingthegap.org](mailto:sharon@bridgingthegap.org).

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### **Frequently Asked Questions**

*Here are some of the most commonly asked questions about RecycleFIRST. For more information, please call 513-3490 or see <http://www.kcmo.org/recyclefirst>.*

**Do I have to recycle?** Participation is voluntary. However, trash collection guidelines have changed for groups where RecycleFIRST is in place: \$1 trash tags will be needed if more than two 40-lb. bags of trash will be put out in a given week.

**Is there a limit to how much I can recycle?** Curbside recycling is unlimited. If you find you have more recyclables than will fit in your free bin, you may purchase additional bins or place the extra items beside the bin, or in similar containers (like paper sacks).

### **What if I can't lift the bin, or the larger trash bags?**

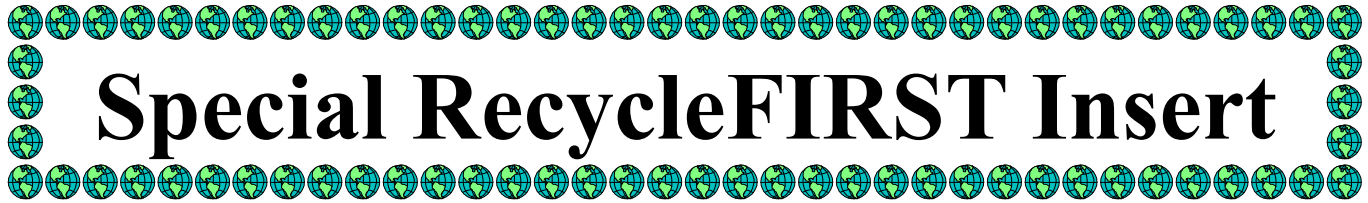
Persons with disabilities will still be eligible for "front door" collection for both trash and curbside recycling bins. Otherwise, you may want to try carrying the items down the curb in smaller loads, and combining them.

**What about leaves, brush, or bulky items?** Collection of these types of items is not affected by RecycleFIRST, and sticker tags will not be required to participate.

### **What about holiday or neighborhood cleanup trash?**

Two times a year, the first full week after July 4th and the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, trash pickup will be unlimited. Neighborhoods which conduct cleanups may contact Environmental Management for special bags which will not require tags.





## Program Incentives For Participating Neighborhoods

What follows are the finalized program incentives for RecycleFIRST, resulting from the 10/31/03 joint meeting with the Department of Environmental Management, the Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council/Waste Management Subcommittee, and representatives from several neighborhood/homes associations across Kansas City.

*Some of the incentives listed below may not be available for your neighborhood group until your neighborhood has been phased into the RecycleFIRST Program.*

1. Tiered bulky item pickup will become a fact with tiers to be determined jointly by the Department of Environmental Management and the Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council.
2. Neighborhood leaders to serve as a "Speaker's Bureau" as an effort to gain compliance.
3. Neighborhood groups performing cleanups and maintenance within their neighborhoods will receive large capacity dumpsters at \$50.00.
4. A "Summer Amnesty" period during the first full week following the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This amnesty would be in addition to the amnesty planned for late December.
5. Bulky item drop-off at Recycling Centers where allowed.
6. Free "Go Free" Stickers for neighborhood groups performing cleanups and maintenance within their neighborhoods. The process for acquiring the stickers would have to be coordinated through the Department of Environmental Management (DEM).
7. Neighborhood leaders that get areas to 70% participation rate will receive formal recognition and free dumpsters twice a year.
8. Free tire drop-off will remain for neighborhood groups that perform cleanups.
9. Establish an appeals board process that is jointly made up of members of the Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council (KCNAC) and the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) to review exceptions.
10. Free leaf and brush drop-off will remain for neighborhood groups that perform cleanups.
11. Establish an ongoing KCNAC Environmental Management Sub Committee to work with DEM throughout the Implementation Phases or until no longer necessary.

For more information, please contact the KCNAC Waste Management Chairperson, Jay Stock, through our office.

**Please note:** For a neighborhood group to take advantage of these benefits, they must be registered with the City's Center for Community Solutions. If you are receiving this newsletter directly from our office, assume that your group is registered. If you know of groups that may not yet be registered with CCS, please have them contact us at 784-4515 or e-mail us at [solutions\\_ncsd@kcmo.org](mailto:solutions_ncsd@kcmo.org).

**KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY  
SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Robert J. Mohart FOCUS Center  
3200 Wayne, Room 212  
Kansas City, MO 64109

Phone: 816-784-4515  
Fax: 816-784-4529  
Email: solutions\_ncsd@kcmo.org



**CENTER FOR  
COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS**

***Nothing Can Stop Dedication***

**Staff:**

**Renea Nash  
Daisy Dixon  
David Reynolds**

**Intern:**

**Bryan Benson**

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*"I am only one, but still I am one.*

*I cannot do everything, but still I can do something;*

*I will not refuse to do something I can do." - Helen Keller*

## Helpful Phone Numbers

### HUMAN RELATIONS

Community Relations and  
Dispute Resolution.....513-1836  
  
Housing Discrimination  
Complaints.....513-1836

### HOUSE AND CAR

Abandoned Cars on the  
Street.....513-1313  
  
Building Permits.....513-1500  
  
Code Violations.....513-9000  
  
Dangerous Buildings.....784-4020  
  
Minor Home Repair.....513-3000  
  
Ordinance Information.....513-3360  
  
ReStore.....231-6889  
  
Tow Services.....784-4080  
  
Water Bill Questions.....513-1400

### SAFE COMMUNITIES

Abandoned and  
Vacant Houses.....513-9000  
  
Animal Control.....513-9800  
  
Community Centers.....513-7600  
  
Crime Prevention.....784-4515  
  
DART.....881-3883  
  
Fire Prevention.....784-9114  
  
Flyer & Label Printing.....784-4515  
  
Geographical Based  
Listings.....784-4515  
  
Housing Authority.....968-4100  
  
Police, Non-Emergency.....234-5111  
  
Move UP.....842-8515  
  
Pet Licensing,  
Spaying and Neutering.....513-9800

## Spring 2004 Leaves and Brush Collection Schedule

Leaves and brush are collected twice yearly from Kansas City homes. Below is the schedule for the first 2004 pickup.

### If your trash day is:

**Monday:** set out your leaves and brush by 7 AM on **March 29**.

**Tuesday:** set out your leaves and brush by 7 AM on **April 5**.

**Wednesday:** set out your leaves and brush by 7 AM on **April 12**.

**Thursday:** set out your leaves and brush by 7 AM on **April 19**.

**Friday:** set out your leaves and brush by 7 AM on **April 26**.

### Remember:

- Use only paper lawn debris bags.
- Seal only with masking tape.
- Do not use any plastic bags or tape.
- Max. weight - 40 pounds per bag.
- Max. 15 bags and/or bundles.
- Bundle brush with twine/jute rope only. Max. 4 ft. x 2 ft. per bundle.
- Do not include limbs greater than 3".